

## Preterism

Preterism is a method of interpreting Daniel and especially Revelation where all the major events have already happened i.e. the past. This method sees Daniel as having been fulfilled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and Revelation as being fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. Preterists are further broken up into two subcategories with partial Preterism and full Preterism. These two groups are very similar except that the partial see the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, resurrection of the dead and the final judgment as future where the full see them as past.

The first generally accepted view of Preterism was written by the Jesuit Luis de Alcasar during the Counter Reformation of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He maintained that everything in the book of Revelation has already been fulfilled except for the last three chapters. This view was adopted by the Catholic church to defend against Protestant historicists who labeled the Catholic church and the pope as the beast/antichrist power.<sup>1</sup>

I have met and debated many Preterists and even though we strongly disagree on the Olivet discourse, the beast power and the antichrist I still consider them to be brothers in Christ. Preterists are very strong on the gospel which I cannot say about most. They readily accept the doctrine of justification by faith alone and flat out reject the Dispensational error of the body of Christ being split into two parts. Where the Gentiles are required to believe and the converted Jews are required to believe and keep the Law.

<sup>1</sup> Farrar, Frederic (1882), The Early Days of Christianity